

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

The following listing reflects amendments to the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method for detecting an analyte in a sample comprising:
delivering a buffer to a test strip to prewet the test strip, wherein said test strip comprises
(i) a buffer addition zone, (ii) a sample addition zone, (iii) one or more test zones positioned
between the buffer addition zone and the sample addition zone wherein at least one of the test
zones includes a first analyte binding agent immobilized therein which binds to analyte in the
sample, and (iv) a terminal buffer flow zone positioned between the one or more test zones and
the sample addition zone, and (v) an absorbent zone positioned relative to the buffer addition
zone and with absorbent properties such that when a predetermined volume of buffer is added to
the test strip wherein the buffer (a) diffuses to one or more test zones, (b) diffuses to the terminal
buffer flow zone, changes direction and (c) diffuses past the one or more test zones and past the
buffer addition zone into the absorbent zone;

delivering a sample to the sample addition zone of the test strip, delivery of the sample
causing analyte in the sample to diffuse past the terminal buffer flow zone to the one or more test
zones and to the absorbent zone, after the buffer diffuses past the one or more test zones, the
analyte binding to the first analyte binding agent and becoming immobilized in the test zones;
and

detecting the analyte immobilized in the test zones.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method

further comprises detecting a second analyte binding agent and the test strip further includes a second analyte binding agent which is capable of binding to the analyte, wherein said second analyte binding agent is positioned in the sample addition zone or in a zone between the sample addition zone and the terminal buffer flow zone,

addition of the sample causing the second analyte binding agent to bind to analyte in the sample, binding of the analyte to the first analyte binding agent causing the second analyte binding agent to be immobilized in the test zones, and

detecting the analyte immobilized in the test zones comprising detecting the second analyte binding agent.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the method comprises detecting a detectable marker on the second analyte binding agent.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the method comprises detecting a particle to which the second analyte binding agent is attached.

32-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between 10 and 250 μL .

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between 20 and 200 μL .

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between 20 and 100 μL .

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between 40 and 60 μL .

40-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has substantially the same fluid flow characteristics within the test strip as the sample delivered to the sample addition zone.

43. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method further comprises detecting a control agent and wherein the test zones further include a first control zone with a control binding agent immobilized therein, and a second control zone with a same control binding agent immobilized therein as the first control zone, the first and second control zones containing a different amount of the control binding agent immobilized therein.

44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method further comprises detecting a control agent and wherein the test zones further include a first control zone with a control binding agent immobilized therein, and a second control zone with a same control binding agent immobilized therein as the first control zone, the first and second control zones containing about the same amount of the control binding agent immobilized therein.

45. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method further comprises detecting a control agent and the test zones further include first and second control zones each with a control binding agent immobilized therein, the first and second control zones positioned adjacent to and on each side of the first analyte binding agent.

46-63. (Cancelled)